WOMONSPACE

our voice in the lesbian community

NEWS

March
1990

Womanspace is a social, recreational, and educational organization for the lesbian community of Edmonton and area.

Our address is: Basement, 9930 - 106 Street. Our phone number is 425-0511. If you have any questions or comments, please give us a call. We would like to hear from you!

Cover:

Break - Time at the Defense Plant

"Women took over hundreds of thousands of factory jobs during World War II, and a few well-publicized plants had pleasant lounges, day-care centres, cafeterias, etc. This scene at an aircraft parts factory (about 1943) was enacted many times over across the country at any spare moment. The jitterbug led the dance craze and one out of every four juke box nickels went for a Glenn Miller platter."

Front picture and above information were reprinted from a postcard from Helaine Victoria Press, box 1779, Martinsville IN 46151, 1979. Around 6 years ago, I received a catalog from them and ordered a great collection of postcards on Lesbian/Women's Herstory!

Correction

February's issue was truly that. Errors were made on the issue date at the bottom of the pages in the newsletter. Womonspace also did have a February General Meeting.

Reprinted from Lesbian Contradiction — a journal of Irreverent Feminism, Issue #28, Fall 1989.

WOMONSPACE

Womonspace News is published monthly by Womonspace Social, Recreational, and Educational Society of Edmonton. Womonspace is a non-profit organization for lesbians in Edmonton and surrounding areas.

Please note that in order to respect the confidentiality of some individuals and/or groups, this newsletter will not be publishing last names or complete names, depending on the situations.

Also, depending on available space, Womonspace may have to edit articles that are received for this newsletter.

Celebration '90

Celebration '90/Team Edmonton

Vancouver is really heating up in anticipation of Gay Games III August 4 - 11. There were over 5000 people who signed up for the 28 sports and cultural events during the early registration period. An expected 10 - 15,000 men and women will register before the final deadline of May 31, 1990. and in Edmonton the excitement is building. Already we have commitments from women for soccer, ice hockey, volleyball, track and field, badminton and power lifting. Hopefully more women will decide to participate. Because this is a participation oriented event, men and women of all skill levels are welcome, and wherever numbers allow, the events will be divided into more and less competitive divisions.

August 4 - 11 would also be a good time to visit Vancouver and be a spectator for the games. Anyone who went to San Francisco for Games I or II will know how the excitement of the games was infectious. The event becomes an affirmation of our sexuality and our right to have healthy, happy and open lives. If you are planning to take in the games, it would be advisable to make plans as soon as possible, as affordable housing in Vancouver is limited.

Team Edmonton has been busy letting people know about the games and trying to raise money. We sent a cheque for $1000 to help the Vancouver organizers and are now raising money to help defray the cost of walk-on uniforms for the Opening and Closing ceremonies. We would like to thank the women's community for their support in our efforts so far. If you would like to participate in the games, donate money, time or ideas for fundraising, or get more information about the games, call Gail at 434-7979 or Kim at 434-4906. See you in Vancouver!

Dear Members
(of Womonspace)

On behalf of the Old Abby Womon's Ball Hockey Team, we would like to thank Womonspace for the financial support during the 1989 ball hockey season. 1989 was a very successful season for Old Abby. The team won the Provincial Championship in Lethbridge, in August and went on to represent Alberta at the Canadian National Championship in Missisauga, Ontario, placing second.

As you can appreciate, the financial cost involved to compete at this level is substantial. The team's expenses for 1989 exceeded $12,000.

We would like to thank Womonspace for the opportunity to work the dances and the team grant. The money from these activities was used to cover a portion of these expenses.

We would also like to thank Melanie S. who acted as the liaison between Womonspace and Old Abby. Her help was invaluable!

If we can ever be of assistance to Womonspace, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thanks again for your support!

— Yours Sincerely, "Captain of Old Abby"

NOT A SIMPLE FRAME SHOP
.....SIMPLY THE BEST!
FRAME OF MIND
"Custom Art Framing"
We are pleased to announce the opening of our new gallery!
6150 - 90 Ave.
Ottewell Shopping Centre
Hours: 9 - 6 Tues., Wed., Sat.
Open till 9:00 Thurs. Closed Sun., Mon.
465-0534

GALA Redefines Role in Pride Week

— Invitation to Pride Week Planning Meeting —

Edmonton has celebrated Stonewall day (June 27) for many years in many ways. Beginning in 1974, GATE (Gay Alliance Toward Equality, now known as the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre) called on our community groups to send representatives to form a committee to celebrate this special day. This worked well for many years. The annual PRIDE week celebrations have been funded through donations from groups. Womonspace has been a regular contributor of dollars and energy, co-sponsoring the dance and hosting her own Wine and Cheese Open House.

In 1984, the PRIDE celebrations took the name Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week — or GALA. Some of us remember the suggestion being made that since the dictionary defines "gala" as a "gay event", it would be a great title. and so GALA was created.

Later that year it became apparent that there was a need for political action, since the Individual Rights Protection Act was to be reviewed in 1985 and it was desired then (and still is for that matter) to have sexual orientation included in that Act. The folks who had been active in GALA '84 decided to undertake this political work and so the GALA Civil Rights Committee emerged.

GALA functioned for several years with a structure of the Civil Rights Committee and the Awareness Week Committee. In 1987, it registered under the Societies Act as the Gay and Lesbian Awareness Society of Edmonton. Both functions continued with many of the same players working on each committee. Each year the Steering Committee would work with the Committee of the Whole to produce the events for Awareness Week. This structure worked well, with groups sending representatives to work on either or both committees.

In February of 1990, GALA held a planning workshop and decided that the Civil Rights Committee is the GALA Society, and that they would be know as GALA. We will work in partnership with other groups and individuals to create a time of celebration during Pride Week and we don not want any real perceived ownership of the week or its activities. Our logo and name will appear only in relation to our own events or events we co-sponsor. If it is necessary to apply for funding for an event that we are directly sponsoring, we will do so on our own behalf. We may contribute to the overall fund for the celebration as do other groups. Individuals who are members of GALA are free to participate in the planning of events that are not sponsored by GALA. GALA will likely have a member who is the official liaison with the Pride Week Committee.

Since other groups do not yet know of these changes, GALA decided to call this first meeting for PRIDE WEEK '90. We have also reserved Bonnie Doon hall for June 23 and Rundle Park Site #3 for June 24. This was done for pragmatic reasons only and should not be taken to mean that GALA intends to run those events.

Many women in our community have worked with great commitment on Pride Week events over the years. Please come to the meeting and share your energy in celebrating the twenty-first anniversary of Stonewall Day.

Sunday March 11, 1990
7 - 9 P.M.
Aids Network (upstairs)
10704 - 108 Street

If you have any questions or would like more information about GALA, call Maureen at 454-8031.

Gay People (and Lesbians) are often subjected to negative stereotyping. So in recent years there has been a drive to promote positive images of lesbians and gays. These campaigns stress that there is nothing out of the ordinary about being homosexual. The picture and above quote is reprinted from the New Internationalist; Pride and Prejudice, Homosexuality — November, 1989 issue.

Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week Events

Date: March 12 - 18, 1990

Monday, March 12:

- Display table in HUB 10-4.
- Pandora's Vox at 5 p.m. on FM 88.5 — "The Role of Lesbians in the Women's Movement"

Tuesday, March 13:

- Display table in HUB 10-4.
- "Meet a real, live Homosexual Day" Open House, 2 - 5 p.m. — 030N Students' Union Building
- Gateway (Student Newspaper) supplement on Lesbian and Gay Issues

Wednesday, March 14:

- Panel Discussion: Do Gays have to go Straight to Heaven? Homosexuality and Christianity, 12 p.m., Education Building, Rm. 129 (U of A Campus)
- Princess Theatre: Law of Desire, 9 p.m. (Male theme)
- Thursday, March 15:
- Blue Jean Day, Lesbian and Gay positive people wear blue jeans to show their support
- Gaywire, 6:00 p.m., CJSR FM 88.5 cable 104
- Sammy and Rosie get Laid — Princess Theatre, 9:30 p.m. (Women's theme)

Friday, March 16:

- Svend Robinson speaks on being a gay MP and on Gay and Lesbian organizing — 12 noon, Tory Breezeway 2, U of A Campus
- Reception to follow, 1 - 3 p.m., Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall — Refreshments will be served
- Social with Svend — 7 - 11 p.m., Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall.

Saturday, March 17:

- GALOC co-sponsors the Womonspace dance.
- "Apartment Zero" at the Princess Theatre. — 9 p.m. (Male theme)

Sunday March 18:

- Brunch — location and time to be determined

— SHOWCASE —

*Venus of the Month

Janet C. has been a member of Womonspace since 1983. She first got involved by working in different areas of our dances. In the early years, Janet is best remembered as the Food Co-ordinator, for around 1½ years. Some of us still remember the attempts at making Vegetarian Chili!

Janet was also involved with Everywomon's Place (EWP) and was a liaison between EWP and Womonspace. Womonspace had an office in EWP's house in those days. She has also remained involved in Wendo (Women's self defence group), and Alberta Women with Disabilities (Womenshine). She has been involved in a variety of women's conferences too. For the last 2 years, Janet has been, and still is Womonspace's Secretary.

She is a true believer in equal right for all. Janet has reminded Womonspace from time to time to take time for the shy & quiet, the disabled, and the inexperienced, wanting to be more involved in Womonspace. Her approach to people and situations are of a great benefit, combined with her experience of being involved in a variety of volunteer work. Womonspace says Thanks Janet!

**Venus governs love, harmony, artistry, feminine sexuality, attraction and the ability to integrate existing influences into a unified whole.*

Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week is organized and sponsored by Gays and Lesbians on Campus. GALOC is a University-based group dedicated to promoting a Gay/Lesbian positive atmosphere on campus.

Everyone is welcome to all of the events. For more information call Debbie at 433-4650 or write to GALOC, Box 75, SUB, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2J7.

Events

Women's Dance

To be held on March 24th at the Riverdale Community Hall, 9231 - 100 Ave., 8:30 p.m. til 1:00 a.m. Non-Alcoholic beverages available. $7.00 - sliding scale admission. This social is by the Edmonton Women's Music Collective. All Womyn are Welcome.

General Meeting

The General Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the Women's Building (Basement, 9930 - 106 Street), at 7:30 p.m. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend.

Our next meeting is on March 13, 1990 and the following is on April 10.

Lesbian Drop-in

The second Thursday of every month, Womonspace holds a regular social from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Women's Building in the main meeting room. Join us for a relaxed evening of coffee and conversation. All are welcome!

The next drop-in is on Thursday, March 8, followed by another on April 12.

Dance Committee Meeting

If you are interested in getting involved in the planning and running of our monthly dances, then please attend our meetings. The next meeting is on March 29 at the Women's Building, starting at 7:30 pm. New volunteers — please call the Womonspace line to confirm the date.

Board Meeting

Womonspace holds one board meeting per month. The next is on March 1st. For more information on attending this one or the following one in late March (last week of), please leave a message on our phone line to contact you with the info.

Newsletter Committee Meeting

Womonspace News is still needing more volunteers on this committee. My intention is to teach 2-3 volunteers the complete system of publishing the newsletter (for back-up). We always need more articles and artwork. Active members wanting to complete the required 8 hours of volunteer work (to vote), I need a couple of women to drop off newsletters around Edmonton. There are many different areas of the committee to be involved in; writing, editing, collation, production, distribution, reporting of other activities happening. Consider the experience gained from putting together a newsletter and the great way to meet more women! Call Elaine at 455-0885 for more information.

Open Bowling

Held at Scona Bowl, 10544 - 82 Ave., for 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. every Sunday. $2.00 per game and the shoes are included.

PR Directions Activities

We are in the process of updating a referral list. If you have names of lesbian-positive professionals, businesses and other organizations etc. that we can use, leave a message on the Womonspace's machine or drop us a line in the mail. Womonspace will contact the suggested referrals before they are put on the list.

Card/Games Night

On the 4th Friday of the month, Womonspace is planning a card/games night. It will be a non-alcohol social with refreshments available. The Paul Kane House is the considered location, but being the first month of this event please call Womonspace's phone line for details.

Events (continued)

Womonspace General Meeting — February 13, 1990

- moves that a copy of the old constitution, proposed new constitution, voting ballot, information sheet and self addressed envelope be sent to all active members that have paid their dues in 1989 to present. The ballot is to be returned to the next general meeting unopened, where they will be tallied by a member approved by the membership. (This is not to restrict members who wish to vote in person at that meeting.)
- moves that Womonspace allocate $100.00 for materials used to compile the Board Kits.
- moves that S.I. continue to have access and update the Womonspace membership list and mail-out labels.

Lesbian Visibility/Invisibility

This course is designed to provide a forum for discussion around issues of unique concern to lesbians. Facilitation will be provided by lesbians familiar with areas of:

- community, resources and politics
- history and culture
- workplace issues
- family issues
- sexuality

in an atmosphere of support, respect and celebration. 6 Tuesdays beginning April 17, fee: $75, enrollment limited to 20. For further information, contact the Women's Program and Resource Centre, Faculty of Extension. U of A. at 492-3093.

Homotalks

Gays and Lesbians on Campus (GALOC), also hold lesbian & gay discussion groups every second Tuesday. Call 433-4650 for location, time and topic.

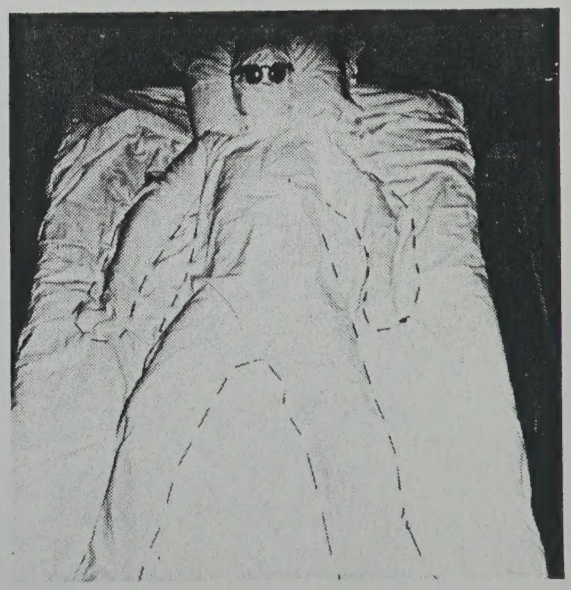
International Women's Day

The schedule of events is not available at this time. I am planning on putting an insert in the mail-out to Womonspace's members. Womonspace is planning on having a table on March 9th & 10th, at the Canada Place main floor location. Watch for posters advertising the event "Imagine the Power". I am also attending the meetings so phone Elaine at 455-0885 in the evening, or Debbie at 420-6866 (wk) during the day for more information.

There will be films, workshops, entertainment, a march . . .

Card/Games Night

Make sure you check out Womonspace's newest social activity — the Card/Games Night. **We promise to leave you in stitches!** The confirmed dates are the fourth Friday of the month; February 23, Mach 23, and April 27, at the Paul Kane House (10220 - 121 Street) from 7 - 10 p.m. It is a non-alcohol social with refreshments available. Oh, and the picture below is reprinted from In/Sights, self-portraits by Women, compiled by Joyce Tenneson Cohen, 1978.



WOMONSPACE DANCE

March 17, 1990
at the Bonnie Doon Hall
9240 - 93 Street
8:30 P.M. to 1:30 A.M

Admission: Members - $4.00, Non-Members - $7.00

As of January, 1990, all members must show their membership card at the door to get the $4.00 admission

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Credits

Elaine K., Karen, Debbie, Kim , Maureen, Abby Team, 2nd Debbie

Please Note: Articles published in Womonspace News do not necessarily reflect the policies and opinions of Womonspace.

WOMONSPACE NEWS
Basement, 9930 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1C7
Phone: 425-0511

Edmonton I.W.D. Committee Events

Location for all Events: Canada Place Atrium, 9700 Jasper Avenue

Friday, March 9th --10 am to 4 pm --Literature Tables and Displays

Saturday, March 10th

12 NOON
ANNUAL I.W.D. MARCH
Assemble in Canada Place Atrium

1 pm
Keynote Speaker
Celebration-Speakers: Exploring Women's Power

1:30 pm to 5 pm: Entertainment on the Main Stage & Displays in the Atrium

1:30 pm to 5 pm: Workshop Series

* Issues of Struggle for Aboriginal Women *
* Privatization and Its Impact on Women *
* Latin American Women and Their Struggle for Peace *
* Pay Equity - Putting It Together *
* Pornography, Sexual Harassment & Violence Against Women *
* Health Hazards for Women at Work *

1:30 pm to 5pm: Film Festival

NFB Theatre, Canada Place

* "Black Mother, Black Daughter" *
* "Person's Case" *
* "Doctor, Lawyer, Indian Chief" *
* "Women in Struggle 22 Years" (Eritrean) *
* SNEAK PREVIEW: "Unnatural Causes" *

Refreshments and Snacks available throughout the afternoon.

Free Childcare is available for all Saturday events but children must be preregistered prior to March 5th by phoning Wendy at 454-5511 or 452-2227

Jennifer Berezan Concert
Wednesday, March 7th
7:30 pm
Centennial Library Theatre
Benefit for Common Woman Books

Also featured: Riverdale Red
Produced by Revolutionary Happenings

Tickets ($12 reg., $9 low inc.) available at Common Woman Books 8724-109 Street
Free onsite childare sponsored by Edmonton I.W.D. Committee

Sunday, March 11th
2:30 pm
Women's Health Issues

Film and discussion with Dr. S. Vecchio

Santa Maria Goretti Community Centre
11050 - 90 Street

Sponsored by Italian Community Services
Contact: Anita, 421-9559

Sponsored by the Edmonton International Women's Day Committee

Participating Groups Aboriginal Women's Committee, ACFA Edmonton - Comite Femmes, Alberta Human Rights Commission, Alberta Status of Women Action Committee, Alberta/N.W.T. Network of Immigrant Women, Atmospheric Environment Services, Black Women's Association, Business and Professional Women's Club, Canadian Human Rights Commission, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Celebration of Women in the Arts, Changing Together, Congress of Black Women, CUSO, Edmonton Multicultural Society, Edmonton Women's Health Collective, Edmonton Working Women, Elizabeth Fry Society, Eritrean Women's Association, Filipino Nurses Association, Household Workers Association of Alberta, Indo-Canadian Women's Association, Italian Community Services, Maria de America - Association of Spanish-Speaking Women, Northwest Media Network, Office for the Prevention of Family Violence, Options for Women, Public Awareness of Sexual Stereotyping and Pornography, Public Service Alliance of Canada, Public Service Commission, Salvadorean Social Services, Secretary of State, Socialist Challenge, SOLEDAD, Strathcona Shelter Society, Transport Canada, Women's Resource Centre, Womonspace/Gala